

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AOYAMA in view of WHITING. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 10 now more clearly define the different types of information. In particular, the acquired information is accessible separately from the other data. This difference is critical! Because the acquired information is separately accessible, only the acquired information can be compared with other acquired information stored in memory. The Examiner can not ignore the critical distinction between the different types of data. The Examiner's mere assertion that there is no critical difference is unsupported, and clearly contradicts the claim language, the specification, and applicant's remarks. The record is quite clear that the data types are critically different.

Neither of the applied references teach the claimed different types of data. For example, WHITING stores all data together and thus cannot compare only some of the data. Nor does the Examiner even address the corresponding claim limitation, choosing instead to ignore claim language just because the Examiner (incorrectly) "believes" the data is not critically different. WHITING suffers from the exact problems the present invention overcomes.

Consequently, for all of these reasons, it is submitted that the independent claims

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are allowable over the applied references.

Dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, and are also believed to recite further patentable subject matter of the invention and therefore are also believed allowable over the prior art. As such, allowance of the dependent claims is deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for the independent claims, in addition to reasons related to their own recitations. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all of the claims in the present application.

The amendments to the claims add no prohibited new matter. The amendments are supported, *inter alia*, by page 3 of the specification.

The above amendments have been presented merely for the purpose of clarification, and not to overcome the applied prior art. Accordingly, no estoppel is deemed to result from any of the present amendments.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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